

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed November 4, 2004. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 28-31, and 55-58 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,076,075 to Teicher in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,014 to Lee. The Examiner also indicated that claims 5-27, 32-54¹, and 59-81 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 28-31, and 55-58 without prejudice. These cancellations do not represent acquiescence to the Examiner's rejections but are made for the purpose of expediting allowance of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims in, for example, a continuation application.

Claims 5, 16, 23, 32, 43, 50, 59, 70, and 77 have now been amended into independent form and thus claims 5-27, 32-55, and 59-81 are believed to be allowable as written. Finally, applicants note they have submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on January 19, 2005 and would appreciate a copy of the initialed PTO/SB/08a/b with the next communication.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone applicants' attorney at

¹ Although the Examiner listed claims 25-55 as allowable, claim 55 was rejected along with dependent claims 56-58. Thus, applicants assume the Examiner meant that claims 32-54 were deemed allowable.

Application No.: 10/014,960

Docket No.: SONY 3.0-022

(908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: February 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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